

PRESS RELEASE

Erik C. Peterson
United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin
(608) 264-5158
TTY (608) 264-5006
www.usdoj.gov/usao/wiw

For Immediate Release

August 2, 2007

Contact Person

Paul W. Connell
Assistant U.S. Attorney

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Jeffrey Heckel, 42, Bemidji, Minnesota, formerly of Somerset, Wisconsin, pleaded guilty yesterday in U.S. District Court in Madison to one count of mail fraud.

Heckel listed rare coins and toys for sale on eBay.com and Yahoo.com under the business name of Somerset Coins. On May 3, 2003, while living in Somerset, Heckel listed a coin for sale on Yahoo.com for \$3,000. After the winner of the auction from Washington state mailed a check as payment for the coin, Heckel delivered a coin worth only \$10.

U.S. District Judge John C. Shabaz scheduled sentencing October 12, 2007. Heckel faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, and the payment of full restitution to his victims.

The charges against Heckel were the result of an investigation conducted by U.S. Postal Inspection Service. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul W. Connell.

##

